

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a memory cell, comprising:
applying a negative voltage to a gate of a PMOS transistor formed in an n-type well, wherein the PMOS transistor includes:
first source/drain region;
a second source/drain region, wherein the first and the second source/drain region include source/drain regions having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;
a channel located between the first and the second source/drain regions;
a gate opposing the channel, wherein the gate includes a gate having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;
a gate insulator separating the gate from the channel, wherein the gate insulator is less than 20 Angstroms thick;
coupling the n-type well to a positive voltage which is less than a power supply voltage; and
reading a charge level of a storage device, wherein the storage device includes a first and a second storage node, the first and the second storage nodes having a work function greater than 4.1 eV.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein coupling the n-type well to a positive voltage which is less than a power supply voltage achieves lower tunneling charge leakage from the gate.
3. A method for operating a memory cell, comprising:
applying a negative voltage to a gate of a PMOS transistor formed in an n-type well, wherein the PMOS transistor includes:
first source/drain region;

a second source/drain region, wherein the first and the second source/drain region include source/drain regions having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;

a channel located between the first and the second source/drain regions;

a gate opposing the channel, wherein the gate includes a gate having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;

a gate insulator separating the gate from the channel, wherein the gate insulator is less than 20 Angstroms thick;

coupling the n-type well to a voltage which is equal to a power supply voltage; and

reading a charge level of a storage device, wherein the storage device includes a first and a second storage node, the first and the second storage nodes having a work function greater than 4.1 eV.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein coupling the n-type well to a voltage which is equal to a power supply voltage achieves lower tunneling charge leakage from the gate and lower junction leakage from the second source/drain region and storage device when the storage device is not charged.

5. A method for operating a memory cell, comprising:

applying a negative voltage to a gate of a PMOS transistor formed in an n-type well, wherein the PMOS transistor includes:

first source/drain region;

a second source/drain region, wherein the first and the second source/drain region include source/drain regions having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;

a channel located between the first and the second source/drain regions;

a gate opposing the channel, wherein the gate includes a gate having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;

a gate insulator separating the gate from the channel, wherein the gate insulator is less than 20 Angstroms thick;

coupling the n-type well to a voltage which is greater than a power supply voltage; and

reading a charge level of a storage device, wherein the storage device includes a first and a second storage node, the first and the second storage nodes having a work function greater than 4.1eV.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein coupling the n-type well to a positive voltage which is greater than a power supply voltage results in less junction leakage the first and second source/drain regions.

7. A method for operating a memory cell, comprising:

activating a gate of a PMOS transistor formed in an n-type well, wherein the PMOS transistor includes:

first source/drain region;

a second source/drain region, wherein the first and the second source/drain region include source/drain regions formed from a material having a work function greater than 4.1eV;

a channel located between the first and the second source/drain regions;

a gate opposing the channel, wherein the gate includes a gate formed from a silicon compound having a work function greater than 4.1eV; and

a gate insulator separating the gate from the channel,

applying a voltage to the n-type well; and

reading a charge level of a storage device coupled to the second source/drain region.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein applying the voltage to the n-type well includes applying a voltage lower than a supply voltage to the n-type well.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein applying the voltage to the n-type well includes applying a voltage equal to a supply voltage to the n-type well.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein applying the voltage to the n-type well includes applying a voltage higher than a supply voltage to the n-type well.
11. The method of claim 7, wherein the silicon compound includes a silicon compound chosen from a group consisting of p-doped silicon carbide and p-doped silicon oxycarbide.
12. A method for operating a memory cell, comprising:
activating a gate of a PMOS transistor formed in an n-type well, wherein the PMOS transistor includes:
first source/drain region;
a second source/drain region, wherein the first and the second source/drain region include source/drain regions formed from a material having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;
a channel located between the first and the second source/drain regions;
a gate opposing the channel, wherein the gate includes a gate formed from a metal having a work function greater than 4.1 eV; and
a gate insulator separating the gate from the channel,
applying a voltage to the n-type well; and
reading a charge level of a storage device coupled to the second source/drain region.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein applying the voltage to the n-type well includes applying a voltage lower than a supply voltage to the n-type well.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the metal includes a metal chosen from a group consisting of cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, iridium, platinum, and gold.

15. A method for operating a memory cell, comprising:
activating a gate of a PMOS transistor formed in an n-type well, wherein the PMOS transistor includes:

first source/drain region;
a second source/drain region, wherein the first and the second source/drain region include source/drain regions formed from a material having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;
a channel located between the first and the second source/drain regions;
a gate opposing the channel, wherein the gate includes a gate formed from a metal nitride having a work function greater than 4.1 eV; and
a gate insulator separating the gate from the channel,
applying a voltage to the n-type well; and
reading a charge level of a storage device coupled to the second source/drain region.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein applying the voltage to the n-type well includes applying a voltage equal to a supply voltage to the n-type well.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the metal nitride includes a metal nitride chosen from a group consisting of titanium nitride, tantalum nitride, tungsten nitride, and molybdenum nitride.

18. A method for operating a memory cell, comprising:
activating a gate of a PMOS transistor formed in an n-type well, wherein the PMOS transistor includes:

first source/drain region;

a second source/drain region, wherein the first and the second source/drain region include source/drain regions formed from a first doped semiconductor material having a work function greater than 4.1 eV;
a channel located between the first and the second source/drain regions;
a gate opposing the channel, wherein the gate includes a gate formed from a second doped semiconductor material having a work function greater than 4.1 eV; and
a gate insulator separating the gate from the channel,
applying a voltage to the n-type well; and
reading a charge level of a storage device coupled to the second source/drain region.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein applying the voltage to the n-type well includes applying a voltage higher than a supply voltage to the n-type well.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein first doped semiconductor material and the second doped semiconductor material include p-doped semiconductor material.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the second doped semiconductor material includes a doped semiconductor material chosen from a group consisting of p-doped silicon, p-doped germanium, p-doped silicon germanium, p-doped gallium nitride, and p-doped gallium aluminum nitride.